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The Guide to Washington
and its vicinity.

1878.





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Washington.

THE
GUIDE
TO
WASHINGTON
AND ITS VICINITY.

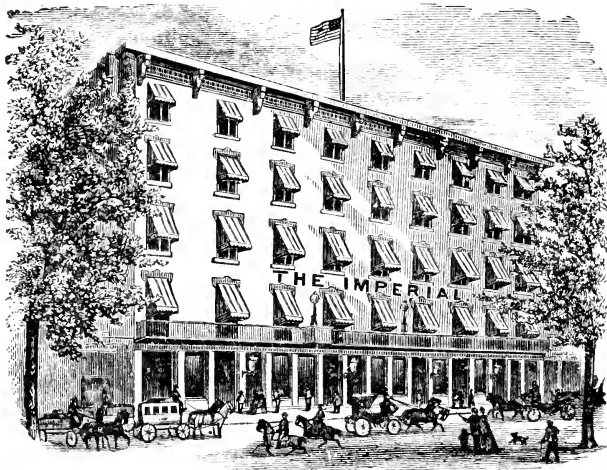
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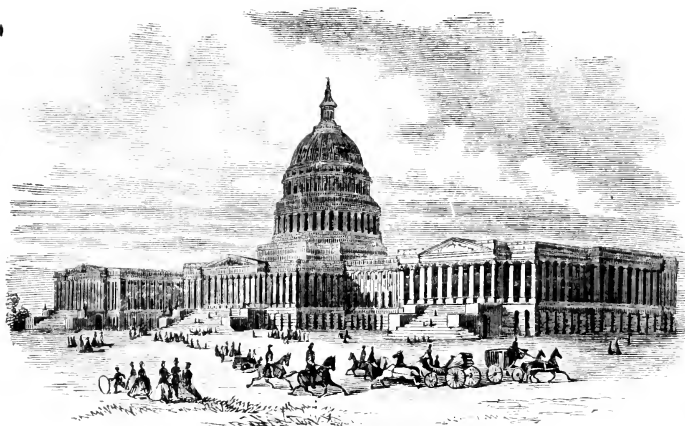
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*Liberal discount made to families and parties visiting the National Capital.*

IMPERIAL HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

## CENTENNIAL GUIDE

TO

WASHINGTON CITY AND VICINITY.



THE CAPITOL.

The first and greatest object of interest to the visitor is the Capitol, a magnificent building, situated a little east of the centre of the city, and can be readily reached by the Pennsylvania avenue, F street and Belt line of city railways.

The interior of the Capitol is grand; the Rotunda, which one naturally views first upon entering, is directly in the centre of the building, and is divided into eight panels, between which are four bas-reliefs of historical subjects, representing respectively, "Preservation of Capt. Smith by Pocahontas," "Landing of the Pilgrims," "Conflict between Daniel Boone and Indians," and "Penn's Treaty with the Indians." The paintings occupying the several panels are "Declaration of Independence,"

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"Surrender of General Burgoyne," "Cornwallis' Surrender at Yorktown," "Washington's Resignation at Annapolis," "Embarkation of the Pilgrims," "Landing of Columbus," "Baptism of Pocahontas," and "Discovery of the Mississippi by De Soto." A number of other paintings adorn the Rotunda; and the sculptor, too, has done his part in the embellishment of this part of the Capitol. These are but few of the objects of interest which the visitor will find in the Capitol, and to which they will be conducted by the Police, whose duty it is to see to comfort of visitors, and to conduct or direct them to such places of interest as they desire to go.

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## THE WHITE HOUSE.

The Presidential Mansion, known all over the country as "The White House," is on Pennsylvania avenue, at a distance of over a mile west of the Capitol, and is within easy access by way of the Pennsylvania Avenue Street Railway Cars, which run directly in front of the grounds. It is 170 feet front and has a depth of 86 feet, and is situated on a plot of ground comprising an area of 20 acres, and the building itself is on an elevation of 44 feet above the Potomac. On the opposite side of Pennsylvania avenue, and in front of the Executive Mansion, is Lafayette Square, which is beautifully ornamented with trees, shrubbery and flowers. This square contains the celebrated Equestrian Bronze Statue of Jackson, the work of Clark Mills, who has the honor of being the first artist to succeed in erecting a statue of a steed poised on his hind feet; cannon captured by Jackson in his conflicts with the British constituted

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material of which the statue was made ; it cost \$50,000. Nearly all parts of the Executive Mansion are accessible to visitors, and something of interest may be found in all of the apartments , but the east room is especially deserving of attention. This room is 80 feet long, 40 feet wide, 22 feet high, and is furnished with much splendor.

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## SOLDIERS' HOME.

On a high plateau three miles north of the Capitol is the Soldiers' Home or Military Asylum. The site was selected by General Scott, the object being the establishment of a home for the worn-out veterans of the United States Army. The main building is 593 feet long, and built of East Chester Marble. The drives leading to this retreat are exceedingly fine and romantic.

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## NATIONAL OBSERVATORY.

The National Observatory, which has already played a part in the world of science, was erected during the administration of President Tyler, and is situated between the President's House and Georgetown, at the distance of about a mile from the former. The building is two stories high, surmounted by a movable dome. The Equatorial, which is a fourteen-foot refractor, is mounted in the revolving dome, and it is worth while to observe the splendid machinery attached to it. This Observatory lies in north latitude  $38^{\circ} 53' 39''$ , and west longi-

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tude  $77^{\circ} 2' 48''$  from Greenwich, and is itself a Meridan.\* This is one of the most interesting places to visit in the district, and visitors will always find some one in attendance to show and explain the objects to be seen.

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## INSANE ASYLUM.

The Insane Asylum, which is built of brick and is 74 feet long, surrounded by highly ornamented grounds, is situated on a prominent elevation in a retired spot on the east bank of the Potomac; the style of architecture is Gothic; embattled parapets surround the whole building, and while the facade presented is extremely simple, it is yet very rich. The institution is well conducted and is worthy a visit.

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## CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY.

The Congressional Cemetery, originally called the Washington Parish Burial Ground, is beautifully situated on the eastern branch of the Potomac, about two miles from the Capitol. The grounds are laid out in splendid style, with paths and avenues running all round and through them. The remains of General Taylor, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and others whose names are historical, reposed for a while in the vault of this Cemetery. Here too are monuments in memory of Naval heroes, while the red men of the forest have representatives in various graves.

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## THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,

One of the largest establishments of the kind in the world, is located directly north of the Capitol. Nearly all the printing and binding required by Congress and the numerous Government departments in Washington is done in this building, and the most recent and perfect machinery is used in the execution of the work. A visit should not be omitted by the inquiring visitor.

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## WINDER'S BUILDING.

Northwest corner of F and 17th streets. It is owned by the government and used for the accommodation of a variety of public offices, namely: the Chief Engineer of Army, the Battle Record Room, Judge Advocate General of the Army, a portion of the Adjutant General's Office, the Army Ordinance Office and Museum, and the Second Auditor of the Treasury.

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## METHOD OF NUMBERING STREETS, &c.

For one not familiar with streets, localities, and points of the compass in Washington a reference to the map will be necessary to illustrate this explanation of the complex system of naming and numbering the streets, which has always been a source of confusion to the stranger. This system, however, when fully comprehended, enables one to find any given street and number without assistance.

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The city is now divided into four sections, the (Capitol being the centre,) respectively denominated Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest. Streets of the same names appearing in all these sections, and the same avenues, in several cases, traversing more than one section, it is customary in stating an address to add to the street the initial letters (as N. E., etc.) of the section in which it is located. *An exception to this rule is the Northwest section, which contains the main portion of the city, regarding which the indicating initials are dropped, and by common usage it is understood, when no section is stated, this section is meant.*

The streets running east and west are lettered, and those running north and south are numbered, except some very short streets which intersect blocks.

The buildings are numbered upon the Philadelphia plan. On the lettered streets, running east and west, and lettering each way from the Capitol, and avenues running diagonally, the numbers of the buildings begin at North and South Capitol streets, and count each way, the numbers of the streets indicating hundreds, those between First and Second streets including from one hundred upward, between Second and Third streets from two hundred upward, and so on.

The numbered streets running north and south count each way from the Capitol, and the buildings thereon number from the dividing line, viz: The Government Reservation No. 2 on the west, and East Capitol street on the east of the Capitol. The system of numbering is the same as with the lettered streets, the numbers being located to correspond with the letters of the alphabet.

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## TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Pennsylvania avenue and 15th street, east of the Executive Mansion. Visitors admitted daily, except Sunday, from 9 A. M. to 2 P. M.

With a written order from the Secretary, and under the direction of the Superintendent, the visitor can be admitted to the Printing Division of the National Currency Bureau.

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## NEW BUILDING FOR STATE, WAR, AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

To the west of Executive Mansion is now being erected the magnificent building which is to accommodate the State, War, and Navy Departments. It will be an imposing structure, with four fronts, and it is expected will surpass all other buildings in Washington except the Capitol.

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## THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Occupies the building on the west side of the Executive Mansion, and fronts Pennsylvania Avenue.

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## THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Occupies the building a little south of, and similar in appearance to, the War Department edifice.

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

occupies its new building on Seventeenth street, west of the Executive Mansion. The building is intended for the War, Navy and State Departments, and, when finished, will be one of the finest structures at the National Capital.

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## COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

*The Columbian University* is located on Fourteenth street, beyond Boundary. James C. Welling, President.

*Gonzaga College* on I street, bet. First and North Capitol streets. Rev. Charles J. Jenkins, S. J., President.

*Howard University* is situated on Seventh street, beyond Boundary.

*Columbia Institution for Deaf and Dumb*, located on Kendall Green, near junction of M and Boundary streets.

*National University Law Department*, 428 Seventh street.

*Georgetown College* is located in the western limits of Georgetown, at the head of Second street. Rev. P. F. Healy, President.

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## THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Is located on the square bounded by 7th and 8th, and E and F streets, about half way between the Capitol and Executive Mansion, and three squares north of Pennsylvania Avenue. This is the site of the first Post Office, which was burnt in December, 1836. The present building is one of the finest structures in Washington. The architecture is Corinthian, and material white marble, which gives a beautiful and imposing effect. It has a front extending two hundred and four feet on E street north, with wings of three hundred feet on 7th and 8th streets.

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## THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

is located in the Patent Office Building. This magnificent structure, the object of which is so closely connected with mechanical and social progress, is in all respects admirably adapted to its purpose. The principal front, with its splendid portico, looks down 8th street.

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Occupies the building in the Mall, a short distance south of Pennsylvania avenue, and between 12th and 14th streets.—The beauty of its grounds and surroundings are equally attractive to the simply curious visitor as to the farmer,—to the admirer of the beautiful as to the botanist.

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## CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY

Occupies the central west front of the main Capitol building. It was burned by the British in 1814, and was again partially destroyed by fire in 1851. The present number of volumes in the whole library is over 250,000. It is opened to the public daily, (Sundays excepted,) from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.

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## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

The fine grounds and buildings of this Institution are in the Mall or Government Reservation No. 2, facing Pennsylvania

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avenue and opposite south 10th street, west. The surrounding grounds directly attached to the building cover twenty acres, and, with the remainder of the reservation, are under Congressional control.

The founder of this Institution was James Smithson, an English gentleman, son of the first Duke of Northumberland a native of London, and a graduate of Oxford, who died in Italy in 1828.

The National Museum is the most interesting feature of the Institution. It contains the specimens gathered by more than fifty exploring expeditions of the Government from every quarter of the globe.

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## THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Is presided over by the Attorney General of the United States, and is accommodated in the south wing of the Treasury Department Building.

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The tall shaft of marble west of the Department of Agriculture, and so distinctly seen from all parts of the city, is the unfinished

## WASHINGTON MONUMENT,

The corner-stone of which was laid July 4, 1848. The original design contemplates a circular building 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet high, and above this an obelisk seventy feet square at the base and 500 feet high.

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## THE ARSENAL

Is located on the extreme southern limit of the city, at the mouth of the Eastern Branch, and is in full view from the Navy Yard. Curiosities from the battle-fields in the late war form a feature of special interest.

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## ORDNANCE MUSEUM

Is in Winder's Building, northwest corner of F and 17th streets. This Museum contains many objects of great interest, namely: the captured Confederate flags, specimens of uniform and equipments, models and drawings, curious arms of many kinds, ages, nationalities, and sizes.

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## ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM,

And office of the Surgeon General of the United States Army, is located on 10th street between E and F streets, in a building which was originally a church, subsequently Ford's Theatre, and specially interesting as the place of the assassination of President Lincoln.

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## THE COAST SURVEY OFFICE,

Under the care of the Navy Department, is in a neat and commodious building on Capitol Hill, and within a few steps of the southern entrance to the Capitol grounds.

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## HOSPITALS.

*Providence Hospital*, located on Capitol Hill, southeast of the Capitol, is under the charge of the Sisters of Charity.

*Columbian Hospital* for women, and lying-in asylum, corner of 25th street and Pennsylvania avenue.

*General Hospital* is located at the northwest corner of Third and High streets, Georgetown.

*Children's Hospital*—location, 804 E street, northwest.

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## MOUNT VERNON.

Mount Vernon belongs to the people of the United States. By contribution they purchased it, and they have full control over it. It is eighteen miles below Washington, and occupies one of the most beautiful and romantic sites to be found on the banks of the Potomac. Its great attraction is, however, to be found in the fact that it was the home of Washington, and that his honored remains there quietly repose. There Washington lived and died, and there he and his wife quietly sleep. Mount Vernon has therefore become the Mecca to which Americans annually make pilgrimages. Among the objects of interest are pictures of the Washington family, the key of the Bastile, presented to Washington by Lafayette and others. The lid of Washington's white marble Sarcophagus is wrought with the arms of his country, and has simply inscribed upon it the one name, "Washington."

Steamer Arrow, Captain Frank Hollingshead, leaves foot of Seventh street at 10 o'clock daily, Sundays excepted, for Mount Vernon.

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## THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSERVATORY,

Where rare plants from all parts of the world can be seen in full bloom, is opposite the west side of the Capitol grounds and south of Pennsylvania avenue. There are several thousands specimens in the collection, arranged in different conservatories, according to the required temperature.

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## CORCORAN ART GALLERY.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, a wealthy citizen of Washington and a liberal patron of art, has erected a beautiful building, with all the necessary appointments for a complete art gallery, entirely at his own cost, which he has donated to public uses and conveyed to a board of trustees to be held as a perpetual trust. It stands at the northeast corner of 17th street and Pennsylvania avenue. It was commenced in 1859, and in 1861, when nearly completed, was taken by the Government for the use of the Quartermaster's Department, and surrendered to its owner in 1869, after which it was finished and dedicated to its intended purpose.

Open daily from 10 A. M. until near sunset; free on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Admission, twenty-five cents, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## ASYLUMS.

*Washington City Orphan Asylum*, I street, between Second and Third, northwest.

*Washington Asylum*, Nineteenth and C streets, northeast.

*St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum*, H, between 9th and 10th streets, northwest.

*St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum*, 439 Tenth street, northwest.

*St. Ann's Infant Orphan Asylum*, corner 24th and K streets, northwest.

*Louise Home*, on Massachusetts avenue and Fifteenth street, northwest.

*Little Sisters of the Poor*, (Home for the Aged,) corner H and Third streets, northeast.

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## THE NAVY YARD,

Located in the eastern section of the city, on the Anacostia River (the eastern branch of the Potomac.) The grounds comprise about twenty or twenty-five acres, and are approached, on the land side, through a handsome gateway, contiguous to which are several guns, trophies of naval warfare, the inscription on each stating its history. The workshops, ordnance stores, mementos of maritime adventure, ship-houses, and frequently monitors and war vessels, present objects of interest sufficient to occupy very profitably the time of the visitor.—Near the yard are the Marine Barracks and Marine Hospital.

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## OAK HILL CEMETERY.

This is admitted to be one of the most picturesque spots in the United States. It is situated in the northern limits of Georgetown, bordering on Road street. It is here where rest the remains of the late E. M. Stanton, the great War Secretary ; M. de Bodisco, former Russian Minister; General Reno, and other notables. Entrance to Cemetery on Road street, head of Washington.

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## GLENWOOD CEMETERY,

Situated north of the Capitol, about one and a half miles from the City Hall.

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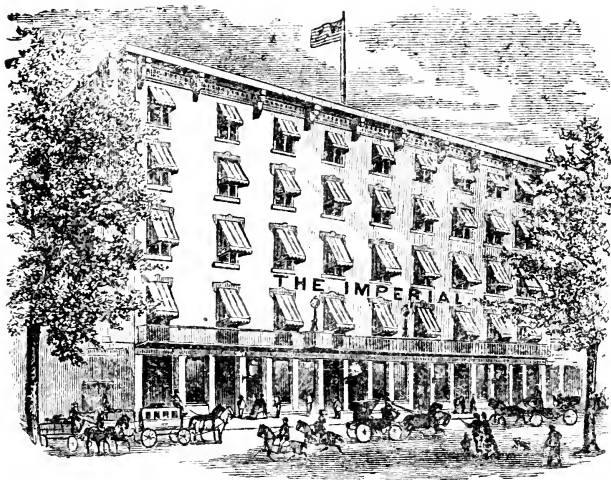
## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Have a handsome building at the corner of Ninth and D streets, where the stranger will always find a welcome. The rooms are open from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M. Newspapers and magazines, religious and secular, from all parts of the country, are to be found in the reading-rooms. The library embraces about twenty thousand volumes, of nearly every class of literature, and is free to all to read in the rooms ; and by the payment of an annual fee of two dollars, books can be taken away. The membership fee, entitling to all the privileges of the Association, is four dollars annually.

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☛ A liberal discount made to Families and Parties visiting the National Capital.

☛ Omnibus in attendance upon all boats and trains.

☛ All Horse Cars pass the Hotel.

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